Utilisation of amount collected on account of cess on Diesel and Petrol

689. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected so far on account of cess on diesel and petrol and the expected collection for the whole year 1999-2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that this amount is being utilised towards meeting fiscal deficit targets instead of using it for its intended purpose of road development; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The amount of additional excise/customs duty on motor spirit and high speed diesel that is sought to be converted into cess is as follows:—

Rs. 2510 crore upto September, 1999; and

Rs. 3377 crore for the current year.

Modalities for setting up the Central Road Fund in line with the announcement made by Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for Budget 1999-2000 are being worked out.

Seizure of weapons at Mumbai Airport

†690. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether custom officers have seized weapons brought in the name of x-ray film in October, 1999 at the Mumbai airport;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the number of such cases detected during the last two years together with the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A consignment received at Aircargo Complex, Mumbai, declared by the importer to contain "X-ray screen" on examination was found

†Orginal Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.